Dear Phil,

1/4/93

For your better understanding of Jerry Ray, enclosed is an Xmas card, most likely second-hand, I got yesterday. Last year, when I was refusing to respond to his tapes and mailings, he flooded me with them, all probably send to Stoner and/or NSRP. He'd X out the names and remail them. I can't recall how many I've gotten this year, rather season.

He phoned me twice last night and I hung up on him both times, the second after cursing him out roundly. As I think I told you, for years I played along with him, pretending to believe his most outrageous lies, and after the post-surgical complications told him more pointedly than in the past that I had no time for the crudities that are jokes to him, the outrageous noises he considers singing, the louder the uglier, or what he regards a politics. I told him that if he continued I'd not listen to the tapes or respond in any way, and I haven't, because his promises not to inflict these abuses were worthless. But the tape I sent you begins with his childishness, after all these years and awareness of how I'd react, and his ugly noises. So, when he phoned t o first time I told him that as soon as it became clear that he was up to what I can't waste time on I had stopped listening to it. I then told him that I meant what I'd said and goodbye. And I hung up. Almost immedi tely the phone rang again, I answered it and he said he thought I wanted to know what the publisher's name is. My response was he could have written Jones of Smith on a piece of paper and not wasted my time, and then I laid into him, with real anger (he interrupted Aida, which we enjoy, especially my wife, Leontyne Price's last performance) concluding by telling him that if I get another Xmas card from him I won't even open his mailings and that he is an ignorant, stubborn, stupid son-of-a-bitch with whom I want nothing to do. And I ~~slam~~ banged the receiver.

Learn who and what he is or he'll waste much time for you.

In part I think it is because he is so lonely. In part it is because the Lanes and others like him and the press, seeking minuscule favors, flattered him into believing that he is something. The only reason the FBI did not charge him with harboring is because they knew he is slackjawed and wanted the benefit of that more.

Best,